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ENABLING A CONTENT PROVIDER INITIATED CONTENT DELIVERY VIA
A SPECIFIC RADIO ACCESS NETWORK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method for enabling a content provider initiated delivery of a content clip to a mobile terminal via a communication network, which communication network comprises radio access networks of at least two different types, and which content clip provided by said content provider is required to be delivered to said mobile terminal via a radio access network of a specific one of said at least two types. The invention relates equally to an assembly of elements connecting a communication system to a content server, to a communication system comprising such an assembly of elements and a communication network, and to a communication network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is known from the state of the art to enable a content provider to deliver content to a mobile terminal via a communication network. The content provider produces and provides a content, e.g. a video clip with BBC news. The actual delivery of the content is then usually taken care of by a service provider, e.g. a network operator, who delivers the content provided by the content provider to the terminal.

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It is also known to enable a "push" delivery of content, i.e. a delivery initiated by the content provider not by a request of a user of a mobile terminal.

In a provider initiated delivery of a content, a content clip can be delivered to a mobile terminal more or less automatically as soon as the clip becomes available, e.g. as part of a multimedia message. The delivery can be organized in a way that it does not require any user actions like clicking on a corresponding uniform resource locator (URL) for retrieving the content clip. An automatic delivery of content clips has to be supported by the mobile terminal to which it is directed. Further, it typically requires that the user of the mobile terminal has subscribed beforehand to a service providing these content clips. It is possible to enable a user to order a content directly from the respective content provider or via a service provider.

The communication network which is made use of for delivering the content may comprise different types of radio access networks for enabling an access of mobile terminals. Such different types of radio access networks provided by a single communication network can be e.g. a 3G (3rd generation) radio access network and a 2G (2nd generation) radio access network, or within a 3G system an UTRAN (universal mobile telecommunication services terrestrial radio access network) employing WCDMA (wideband code division multiple access) and a GSM (global system for mobile communications) radio access network.

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Further, mobile terminals have been proposed that are able to access a communication network via different types of radio access networks and thus via different radio access technologies (RAT). Such mobile terminals are referred to as multi-mode terminals. One example for a multi-mode terminal is a 2G/3G dual-mode terminal.

In order to enable a comprehensive use of such multi-mode mobile terminals, it has also been proposed that a communication network providing different radio access technologies should support an intersystem handover of a multi-mode mobile terminal between these technologies.

The network signaling employed for performing an intersystem handover between UMTS (universal mobile telecommunication services) and GSM is described for example in the technical specification 3GPP TS 23.060 V3.6.0 (2001-01): "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Service description; Stage 2 (Release 1999)".

There are several reasons for which a change of the radio access technology is enabled.

The most important reason for an intersystem handover is differences of coverage and quality in the communication system. In some situations, the coverage of a first radio access system to which a moving mobile terminal is currently connected may end. Moreover, the radio connection quality provided by this first radio access system may degrade below a given threshold value. If at the same time, another radio access system still provides coverage and/or a better radio connection quality, an

intersystem handover can guarantee a continued and satisfactory supply of the mobile terminal. The first radio access system is typically a WCDMA system and the second radio access system a GSM/GPRS system.

Another essential reason for an intersystem handover is load, i.e. the current amount of traffic in different radio access systems. When the load in a first radio access system exceeds a pre-defined threshold value, an overflow of mobile terminals can be handed over to another radio access system. In this case, the first radio access system is typically GSM/GPRS and the second radio access system WCDMA.

A third reason for an intersystem handover is QoS (quality of service) requirements of requested services. The operator of the communication system defines service based handover criteria according to its preferences. These criteria are then stored in a service priority table in the core network, which initiates the handover. The same table resides additionally in the radio network controller (RNC) of an UTRAN of the communication system. The table in the RNC can be used in case the RNC receives no handover information from the core network. In an exemplary assignment of services to different radio access technologies, GSM may be preferred for speech and WCDMA for packet data, while circuit data has to be transmitted using WCDMA. An additional criterion for a service based handover is load, load and service based handover thus being a more accurate term than service based handover.

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As specified for example in the technical specification 3GPP TS 25.413 V3.4.0 (2000-12): "UTRAN Iu Interface RANAP Signalling (Release 1999)", a service based handover from a 3G UTRAN to a 2G GSM radio access network is implemented by an optional parameter called "Service Handover" in the RANAP (radio access network application part) messages "RAB Assignment Request" and "Relocation Request" on the Iu interface between the core network and an UTRAN. Three values are defined for this parameter, "HO to GSM should be performed", "HO to GSM should not be performed" and "HO to GSM shall not be performed". Thus, the core network is not able to force the RNC to carry out a handover from a 3G to a 2G radio access network, but only to propose a handover. The final decision is taken by the RNC based on additional criteria like load, coverage and radio connection quality. Furthermore, in load and service based handovers, an RNC hands mobile terminals over to a base station subsystem (BSS) periodically and in groups, not immediately and on an individual basis.

A problem that may result in the delivery of content to a multi-mode mobile terminal and that cannot be solved with the currently known methods relates to licensing. In the media world, it is a common approach to provide a license for distributing a specific content only through a certain access, e.g. for TV and radio broadcasting via cable, via a terrestrial access, i.e. analog, digital, AM, FM, HF, UHF, and/or VHF, or via satellite systems. In mobile communications, in contrast, content licenses are rather new. Still, some content providers have already sold exclusive licenses to mobile communication network

operators and to other service providers for providing a certain content on a limited radio access spectrum, e.g. GSM and UMTS bands or technologies. An operator typically has both, 2G and 3G networks, and is able to provide a lot of content via 3G radio access to 3G/2G dual-mode terminal users. However, if this operator has only a 2G license for a certain content, a technical solution to provide the licensed content to its dual-mode subscribers on the 2G band would be useful. When the dual-mode mobile terminal of the dual-mode subscriber tries to access the 2G-only content via the 3G radio access network, it must be moved to the 2G system in order to enable the access. After content delivery by means of download, streaming or MMS (multimedia messaging service) via 2G radio access network, the terminal can either be moved to the 3G system or stay in the 2G system.

Further, a situation may arise in which a content is to be delivered which requires a specific radio access technology. A 2G/3G mobile terminal, for example may operate either in a 3G WCDMA system or in a 2G GSM system. The WCDMA system is then regularly the preferred system. GSM, however, has some services which do not exist in 3G, for example transparent facsimile.

The current 3GPP specifications treat UTRAN, GSM and GERAN radio access cells equally, i.e. there are no strong means for the network operator to guide a mobile terminal towards the most suitable radio access technology. It is known to favor one or another public land mobile network (PLMN), location area (LA), routing area (RA) or cell based on defined criteria. However,

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cells of different radio access technologies may be mixed in a single PLMN, LA or RA, and no method has been proposed so far for forcing the mobile terminal to a specific radio access technology, and not even for favoring a certain radio access technology. Only if a requested service cannot be provided in the current serving cell, the call may be handed over to another cell by the network, or the call may be cleared.

The European patent application EP 1 162 805 A1 describes a delivery of content upon a request of a user, in particular a request via a mobile terminal. It is proposed that due to the high costs, only a reduced content is delivered to the mobile terminal, while the full content is provided to an alternate system, in particular a wired system. Providing the full content to this alternate system can be realized e.g. by means of a "push" delivery to an internet connected data processing system. The document does not deal, however, with the requirement of delivering content to a mobile terminal via a specific type of radio access network in a "push" delivery.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to enable a content provider initiated delivery of a content, which content is to be delivered to a user of a mobile terminal over a communication network via a predetermined type of radio access network.

This object is reached according to the invention with a method which comprises as a first step determining the type of radio access network which is required for delivering the content clip. The required type is determined based on an indication associated to the content clip. Such an indication may in particular be provided by the content provider together with the content clip. In addition, the type of radio access network is determined via which the mobile terminal to which the content clip is to be delivered currently accesses the communication network. In case the mobile terminal accesses the communication network currently via a radio access network of a different type than required for the delivery of the content clip, a handover of the mobile terminal to a radio access network of the required type is triggered. Finally, the content clip is delivered to the mobile terminal via the radio access network of the type required for delivering the content clip.

It is to be noted that the term handover is meant to include as well cell reselections.

The object of the invention is equally reached with a corresponding communication system. This system comprises a communication network with radio access networks of a first type and of a second type and with means for performing an intersystem handover of a mobile terminal from a radio access network of the first type to a radio access network of the second type. The system further comprises a mobile terminal with means for accessing the communication network via radio access networks of the first and of the second type. The system moreover

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comprises an arrangement of at least one element. This arrangement can be external to the communication network or form a part of the communication network. In the first case, it can be for example a MMS relay and/or server, which may co-operate with other elements of the arrangement. An MMS relay/server is defined e.g. in the technical specification 3GPP TS 23.140 V5.1.0 (2001-12): "Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS); Functional description; Stage 2 (Release 5)" to be responsible for storage and notification, reports, and general handling of messages. The arrangement is employed for connecting a content server to the communication network, which content server provides upon the initiation of a content provider content clips that are to be delivered to a mobile terminal over the communication network and via a radio access network of the second type. The arrangement comprises means for carrying out the steps of the proposed method.

The object of the invention is also reached with such an arrangement of at least one element. The proposed arrangement thus comprises means for receiving content clips from a content server, and means for performing the steps of the proposed method.

Finally, the object of the invention is reached with a corresponding communication network enabling a handover for a content provider initiated delivery of a content clip.

The invention proceeds from the idea that a possibility might be provided for determining for a content clip

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provided by a content provider whether the content clip is to be delivered to a mobile terminal via a specific radio access network. Then, a handover of the mobile terminal to which the content clip is directed may be triggered, in case this mobile terminal is currently accessing the communication network via another one than the required radio access network.

It is an advantage of the invention that a provider initiated content delivery is enabled even if the mobile terminal to which the content is directed is currently accessing the communication network via another type of radio access network than required for the content.

Preferred embodiments of the invention become apparent from the subclaims.

The content clip provided by the content provider can be included in some message, e.g. in a multimedia message but also some other message. Such a message may comprise for example an extension header indicating the type of radio access network required for delivering the content clip. It is to be noted, though, that the indication only has to be provided together with the content clip. It may thus also be included e.g. in a metadata file interlinked to the message.

In one possible embodiment of the invention, all content clips originating from a specific content provider have to be delivered via a specific type of radio access network. In this case, the origin of the content clip may

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constitute the indication of the type of radio access network required for delivering the content.

In another embodiment of the invention, the indication, whether a content clip originating from a content provider has to be delivered via a specific type of radio access network, is requested from a network entity after the reception of the content clip and before delivery to the user of the mobile terminal.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, a content clip originating from a content provider is examined, e.g. by an MMS relay/server, and based on the results of the examination, it is concluded whether the content clip has to be delivered via a specific type of radio access network.

In an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the content clip provided by the content provider is first stored in a database. From this database, the content clip can be retrieved as soon as it is known that the mobile terminal to which the content clip is to be delivered accesses the communication network via a radio access network of the type required for delivering the content clip.

Even though a content clip will usually be provided due a service subscribed by the user of the mobile terminal, the mobile terminal might not be available for receiving the content clip. It is therefore proposed that a notification is transmitted to the mobile terminal, which indicates that the mobile terminal may request a delivery

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of a provided content clip. A possibly required handover of the mobile terminal is then only triggered upon a request by the mobile terminal to deliver the content clip. Equally, the content clip is only delivered to the mobile terminal upon this request by the mobile terminal.

The content provider will commonly provide together with a content clip an identification of the mobile terminal to which the content clip is to be delivered. More specifically, this identification might be an MSISDN associated to a SIM (subscriber identity module) or USIM (UMTS SIM) in the mobile terminal. The identification is thus associated to a mobile subscriber in general, and to a specific mobile terminal as long as it is connected to this SIM or USIM. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a list stored in some storing means comprises the identification of all subscribers allowed to access the communication network via at least two different types of radio access networks. The provided identification of the subscriber can then be compared with the stored list. A handover is only triggered in case the mobile terminal to which the content clip is to be delivered can be determined to belong to a dual-mode subscriber.

The type of radio access network to which the mobile terminal is currently connected can be determined based on an available, stored information about the current connection of mobile terminals, e.g. of all mobile terminal having subscribed to a service. Such information may include information about the currently used radio access technology, about the type of the mobile terminal

and about the subscription of the mobile terminal. The information can be provided each time a mobile terminal accesses the communication network. This information may also be used to verify whether a dual-mode subscriber is currently using a dual-mode mobile terminal and to prevent a handover in case a dual-mode subscriber is currently not using a dual-mode mobile terminal.

The content provider can provide the content clip in particular to an MMS relay/server which is connected to the communication network and which triggers the handover of a mobile terminal if required. The MMS relay/server can also determine whether a handover is required. Alternatively, this task can be performed by a unit connected to the MMS relay/server. Such a unit connected to the MMS relay/server may also store information required in the unit or in the MMS relay/server for determining whether a handover is to be triggered.

When a handover was triggered, the content clip is preferably delivered only after a notification that the triggered handover has been completed.

The invention can be implemented for the packet switched (PS) domain and/or for the circuit switched (CS) domain. Preferably, the invention is implemented at least for the PS domain, since all 2G/3G mobile terminals should support a processing of PS data. The handover is triggered in the PS domain with a network controlled cell re-selection (NCCRS) trigger to the GGSN (serving GPRS support node) and the SGSN (gateway GPRS support node) and for the CS domain with a trigger to the NAS (non

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access stratum) and the MSC (mobile switching center). In case an MMS relay/server supports only the delivery of multimedia messages in the PS domain, only NCCRS triggers are needed.

Preferably, at least one of the radio access networks of the communication network is a 3G radio access network, while at least one other of the radio access networks is a 2G radio access network.

Evidently, though, the invention can also be employed with communication networks comprising other at least two different types of radio access networks, the invention only requiring that there is at least one kind of intersystem handover enabled which is initiated by a content provider.

Accordingly, the intersystem handover of the invention cannot only be implemented for WCDMA and GSM/GPRS, but for any systems between which such an intersystem handover may be of interest, for instance also for a handover of a mobile terminal from a WLAN (wireless local area network) to GSM.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of an exemplary embodiment of the invention considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

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- Fig. 1 shows a communication system in which an embodiment of the method according to the invention can be employed; and
- Fig. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of the method according to the invention implemented in an MMS relay/server of the communication system of figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 shows a communication system according to the invention, which enables a content provider initiated delivery of content to a mobile terminal via a mobile communication network.

The depicted communication system comprises a 3G UTRAN 1 and a 2G GSM radio access network 2. The UTRAN 1 comprises in turn base stations BTS connected to a radio network controller RNC, while the GSM access network comprises base stations BTS connected to a base station controller BSC.

The RNC of the UTRAN is further connected via a 3G serving GPRS support node (3G-SGSN) to a home location register HLR and a gateway GPRS support node GGSN. The BSC of the GSM access network is connected in addition via a 2G-SGSN to the HLR and the GGSN.

SGSNs, HLR and GGSN belong to the core network of the communications system. The ensemble of 2G and 3G radio access networks 1, 2 and the core network will also be referred to as mobile communication network.

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The SGSNs are switches that serve a mobile terminal in its current location for packet switched services. The GGSN is a switch of the core network providing a connection for packet switched services to external networks. For this function, the GGSN is connected on the one hand for multimedia messaging services via an MMS relay/server 5 to a content server 3 of a content provider.

The communication system of figure 1 further comprises a mobile terminal 4. This terminal 4 is a 2G/3G dual-mode station, which supports GSM/GPRS and WCDMA. The mobile terminal 4 is thus capable of accessing the as well the UTRAN 1 as the GSM radio access network 2 of the mobile communication network via any of the respectively provided base stations BTS.

The operator of the mobile communication network has a license for delivering content clips for a specific MMS via the 2G radio access technology to mobile terminals. The operator does not have the license for delivering these content clips via the 3G radio access technology. The user of the depicted dual-mode mobile terminal 4 has subscribed to this specific MMS.

The MMS relay/server 5 stores a list of the MSISDNs (Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network numbers) of all those service subscribers which use a 2G/3G mobile terminal, thus also the MSISDN of mobile terminal 4.

Whenever one of these subscribers activates a packet data protocol (PDP) context via a mobile terminal, the MMS relay/server 5 further receives from the GGSN information on the used radio access technology RAT, on the kind of the used mobile terminal, i.e. on the user equipment UE, and on subscriptions SUBS of the respective mobile terminal. This information is equally stored by the MMS relay/server 5. Alternatively, the information could be provided to and stored in some storage element connected to the MMS relay/server 5, e.g. an Id Proxy.

The delivery of a 2G-only content provided by the content provider 3 for an MMS subscribed by the depicted mobile terminal 4 will now be described with reference to figure 2. Figure 2 illustrates a part of the procedure realized in the MMS relay/server 5 for enabling the delivery of content originating from the content provider 3.

In an exemplary initial state, the mobile terminal 4 has a non-real time (NRT) packet switched (PS) connection in the UTRAN 1, and the corresponding information on RAT, UE and SUBS is stored in the MMS relay/server 5 or in a connected storage element.

The content provider 3 provides a multimedia message comprising a content clip to the MMS relay/server 5, whenever a new content clip for an MMS subscribed by some user is available, e.g. a 2G-only content clip for the MMS subscribed by the user of mobile terminal 4.

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In a first step, the MMS relay/server 5 thus receives automatically a multimedia message with a content clip from the content server of the content provider 3.

Before the multimedia message can be delivered by the MMS relay/server 5 to its destination, the type of radio access technology required for the comprised content has to be determined.

The multimedia message provided by the content provider 3 comprises to this end an extension header in its MIME (Multipurpose/Multimedia Internet Mail Extension) multipart header. This extension header includes an indication that the comprised content clip is a 2G-only content clip as well as the MSISDN of the subscriber for which the content clip is intended.

Alternatively, the indication that the comprised content clip is a 2G-only content clip can be included within the protocol layer that is used to deliver the multimedia message from the content provider 3 to the MMS relay/server 5.

Further alternatively, the MMS relay/server 5 may be configured such that it knows that all multimedia messages originating from a certain content provider 3 have 2G-only content.

Due to the provided MSISDN of the subscriber, a transmission of the IP addresses of the respective subscriber from the GGSN to the MMS relay/server 5, which IP addresses correspond to the established PDP contexts,

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is not required for the delivery of the multimedia message. In the described example, the MMS relay/server 5 detects that the received multimedia message comprises a 2G-only content clip.

The MMS relay/server 5 stores in its database a list of all received multimedia messages which are to be delivered and which contain 2G-only content clips. In addition, the MMS relay/server 5 stores in its database the corresponding multimedia messages. Based on the newly received multimedia message with a 2G-only content, the MMS relay/server 5 supplements its database.

The MMS relay/server 5 moreover determines, whether the mobile terminal 4 for which the content clip is intended is a 3G-only terminal. In case it is a 3G terminal, the content clip will not be delivered.

Otherwise, the MMS relay/server 5 transmits an MMS notification to the mobile terminal 4 of the subscriber to which the subscribed content clip is directed. The notification comprises a uniform resource indicator (URI) pointing at the MMS relay/server 5 and the required information for activating an MMS User Agent in the mobile terminal 4. As a result, the terminal 4 requests the MMS relay/server 5 to deliver the multimedia message. Alternatively, the user agent could inform the user of the mobile terminal 4 about the new MMS notification. The user may then click a button in the terminal 4 to request a delivery of the multimedia message.

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The MMS relay/server 5 further determines based on the received MSISDN and the stored information on RAT, UE and SUBS, whether the mobile terminal to which the message is to be delivered is a dual-mode mobile terminal. In case the list of MSISDNs is stored in a storing unit, the MMS relay/server 5 could procure the information from this storing unit on the basis of the MSISDN of the mobile terminal to which a content clip is to be delivered.

In case it is determined that the received multimedia message with the 2G-only content clip is to be delivered to a 2G-only subscriber, the message can be delivered immediately upon the request by the mobile terminal of the subscriber. In case the received multimedia message with the 2G-only content clip is to be delivered to a 3G-only subscriber, the mobile terminal is informed that a provided content clip cannot be delivered.

In case the subscriber uses a dual-mode mobile terminal, however, the MMS relay/server 5 has to determine in addition whether the terminal is currently connected to the mobile communication network via a 2G or a 3G radio access network 1, 2. To this end, the MMS relay/server 5 maps the received MSISDN to the stored RAT, UE and SUBS information. In case the mobile terminal is a dual-mode terminal which is currently connected to a 2G radio access network 2, the stored message with the content clip can now be delivered to the mobile terminal.

In the described example, the MMS relay/server 5 determines that the mobile terminal 4 is a dual-mode terminal which is currently connected to a 3G radio

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access network 1. Since the content clip is only allowed to be delivered via 2G radio access technology, the MMS relay/server 5 knows now that it has to trigger a handover of the mobile terminal 4 to a 2G radio access network 2 before the content clip can be delivered.

The requirement of a handover could be determined alternatively in another network element, for example in an Id Proxy connected to the MMS relay/server 5. The Id Proxy would then simply provide the MMS relay/server 5 with an indication whether or not the MMS relay/server 5 has to trigger a handover of the mobile terminal.

For triggering the handover, the MMS relay/server 5 transmits a NCCRS trigger to the GGSN.

The handover of the mobile terminal 4 from the UTRAN 1 to the GSM access network 2 resulting from the NCCRS trigger by the MMS relay/server 5 is indicated in figure 1 with an arrow labeled "NCCRS". The details of the actual handover will be described further below.

The GGSN informs the MMS relay/server 5 when the handover of the mobile terminal 4 to a 2G radio access network 2 has been completed.

After having received the indication by the GGSN that the handover has been completed, the MMS relay/server 5 retrieves the stored multimedia message with the 2G-only content from its database and delivers the multimedia message to the mobile terminal 4 via GSM radio access network 2. The user agent of the terminal 4 can then

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present the received multimedia message on the screen of the terminal 4, either automatically or upon a request by the user of the terminal 4.

The MMS relay/server 5 moreover changes the stored RAT status of all IP addresses of the subscriber, since otherwise, the MMS relay/server 5 might produce wrong NCCRS triggers for subsequent content deliveries.

In the described embodiment of the invention, the MMS relay/server 5 will deliver a content clip to a mobile terminal only in case the mobile terminal has currently an active PDP context, since only in this case a valid information on RAT, UE and SUBS is available at the MMS relay/server 5 for the mobile terminal. In case the mobile terminal is not attached to the PS Core network when a multimedia message is provided by the content provider 3, the message is stored in the database of the MMS relay/server 5 until the mobile terminal performs the next Routing Area Update to the PS Core. In another embodiment of the invention, however, other criteria for the delivery of multimedia messages could be employed as well.

As becomes apparent from the above description, a new protocol between the MMS relay/server 5 and the GGSN is required for supporting NCCRS triggers from the MSMC to the GGSN and for supporting the delivery of RAT, UE and SUBS information from the GGSN to the MMS relay/server 5 or to a storage element connected to the MMS relay/server 5.

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In the following, a possible handover procedure triggered by the MMS relay/server 5 will be described in more detail.

In case the MMS relay/server 5 determined that a handover is required for delivering the received multimedia message, it sends a content-based inter-system network controlled cell re-selection (CB IS NCCRS) trigger to the GGSN.

The CB IS NCCRS trigger is further conveyed in an optional field of an Update PDP Context Request message, to the 3G-SGSN. The 3G-SGSN interprets the message based on the optional field content as CB IS NCCRS trigger and triggers a service based cell reselection (SB IS NCCRS) in the RNC by means of a RAB assignment request. For the RNC, a service based cell reselection is the same as a content based cell reselection, since both use the same service handover information element parameters to trigger a cell re-selection in the RNC.

The RNC commands the mobile terminal to perform a cell re-selection in 2G. Then, a RAB Assignment Response is sent by the RNC to the 3G-SGSN and an Update PDP Context Response by the 3G-SGSN further to the GGSN.

The mobile terminal is able to find a 2G cell by itself and transmits a routing area update request on the 2G side to the 2G-SGSN.

With a SGSN context request and response between 2G-SGSN and 3G-SGSN, the 2G-SGSN obtains the old SGSN Context of

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the mobile terminal from the 3G-SGSN. The 3G-SGSN includes an information in an optional field of the response message indicating that the mobile terminal has been moved to 2G due to content-based access reasons.

When a Cancel Location message is now received at the 3G-SGSN from the HLR, the Iu-interface is released with a message exchange between the 3G-SGSN and the RNC. In a subsequent BSS Packet Flow Context procedures, the 2G-SGSN indicates to the BSC in a CREATE-BSS-PFC message that a handover to the UTRAN shall not be performed. The reason for this value is that the mobile terminal shall not be moved immediately back to 3G while downloading 2G-only content via the 2G radio access, since this would violate the content license.

The above mentioned Routing Area Update Request of the mobile terminal is then accepted with a corresponding message by the 2G-SGSN.

Further messages are employed in a request/response message exchange between 2G-SGSN and GGSN for updating the PDP Context in the GGSN. The 2G-SGSN includes in the request a handover (CB IS NCCRS) information indicating that the handover is being progressed.

With a final message, the GGSN informs the MMS relay/server 5 that the handover (CB IS NCCRS) has been completed for the user for which the MMS relay/server 5 triggered the handover.

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Now, the MMS relay/server 5 can deliver the received multimedia message containing the 2G-only content clip to the mobile terminal as described above.

After the handover of the mobile terminal 5 to the GSM access network, the mobile terminal 5 can be kept on the 2G side by including a parameter "HO to UMTS shall not be performed" into the handover message on the A interface from the core network to the BSC. The other two possible parameters are "HO to UMTS should be performed" and "HO to UMTS should not be performed".

When the mobile terminal 5 has switched again to idle mode, it will connect to the strongest 3G or 2G cell, unless the operator has given GSM cells a high priority in a WCDMA neighbor list. Such a high priority for GSM cells will keep the idle mobile terminal 5 in GSM, even if it receives stronger signals from WCDMA cells, as long as they remain below a predetermined maximum threshold level.

It is to be understood that the described embodiment of the invention constitutes only one of several possibilities of realizing the method, network element, mobile communication network and the communication system of the invention.